

## **LISTING OF THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**11. (Currently Amended)** An endoscopic imaging system, comprising:  
an imaging device for imaging ~~projecting~~ an object ~~image of an object~~ inside a body cavity;  
a digital signal converter for converting an image signal sent from said imaging device ~~means~~ into a digital signal;  
a signal processor for processing said digital signal sent from said digital signal converter;  
a discriminating signal appending circuit for appending a discrimination signal in relation to the number of pixels of said imaging device to said digital signal processed by said signal processor;  
a compression circuit for determining a level of compressibility according to said discrimination signal appended by said ~~discrimination~~ discriminating signal appending circuit, and for compressing said digital signal processed by said signal processor; and  
a recording unit for recording said digital signal compressed by said compression circuit on a recording medium.

**12. (Canceled)**

**13. (Previously Presented)** An endoscopic imaging system according to claim 12, wherein said data recorded in advance on said recording medium is medical-field data or patient data.

**31. (Currently Amended)** An endoscopic imaging system comprising:  
an imaging device for projecting an object image; and  
a signal processing device for processing an image signal outputted from said imaging device,  
wherein said signal processing device comprises:

a signal processing circuit for processing said image signal outputted from said imaging device to produce a digital signal;

a discrimination signal appending circuit for appending a given discrimination signal to said digital signal produced by said signal processing circuit;

a compressing circuit for determining a level of compressibility according to said discrimination signal appended by said discrimination signal appending circuit; and for compressing said digital signal produced by said signal processing device; and

a recording circuit for recording said digital signal compressed by said compressing circuit on a recording medium.